

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING HIGH TECH GRADUATES TO ADVANCE CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi today called for increased attention to the growing need for skilled workers in the science, mathematics, engineering and technology fields during his "Listening Tour" Forum at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He was joined by Cal Poly President Dr. Warren Baker in leading the discussion among business, academic, labor and community leaders about higher education's role in preparing California students to comprise the workforce of tomorrow. The participants also addressed the need to devote resources to train those who do not attend college for skilled jobs in technology, healthcare, agriculture, and other industries essential to California's success.

"California's economy has long benefited from the extraordinary innovations developed by our institutions of higher learning," Garamendi said. "We must take action now to make sure that we have enough skilled graduates to continue our state's record of leadership in research and in vital industries."

At the event, Dr. Julian Crocker, San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools, and Dave Garth, President of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, were among those who made presentations. The Lt. Governor designed the Listening Tour to generate substantive ideas and policies to help California meet workforce needs and maintain the state's economic vitality. Garamendi also will use information garnered from the forums to contribute to the agenda of the newly revitalized California Commission for Economic Development, which he chairs.

This forum was Garamendi's seventh CSU "Listening Tour" stop since he took office in January. He already has hosted similar forums at the Fresno, Bakersfield, San Bernardino, East Bay, Los Angeles, and Pomona campuses.

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